

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A request is made to revise FIG. 2B and FIG. 2C in the manner illustrated by the red-marked copies being provided herewith. Specifically, in FIG. 2B, reference no. 21d should be changed to 21b. In FIG. 2C, reference number 21e should be changed to 21c and reference number 24e should be changed to 24c. In anticipation of the approval of these red-marked revisions, replacement drawing sheets are being submitted as part of this Amendment Response.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

A number of minor informalities have been raised by the Examiner and each of these have been addressed in a fashion believed to be appropriate based upon the nature of the informality and the present application papers.

With regard to the line spacing, a revised substitute specification is being provided. With regard to the various drawing issues, a red-marked copy of each drawing sheet with the proposed changes is being included with this Amendment Response. In anticipation of approval of those red-marked changes, formal replacement sheets are being submitted with this Response. Additionally, minor amending changes have been made to the specification so as to correspond to the information contained within the drawings, primarily consistency between the text and the drawings in terms of the reference numbers that are used. With regard to the Examiner's concern that some of the reference characters of FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C may not have been presented in the specification, the Examiner's attention is directed to page 13 which specifically mentions, describes, and explains the corresponding component or structure for each of the reference numbers that have been used in these three drawing figures.

With regard to the various claim objections and informalities, each of the issues raised by the Examiner has been addressed. These are reflected in the amending changes submitted herewith. If the Examiner believes that any of the amending changes submitted in an effort to address these informalities is not sufficient, the Examiner is

asked to contact the undersigned attorney of record in hopes of expediting any further changes that might be requested.

With regard to the last informality pertaining to claim 71, Applicant believes that this should be claim 72 in that claim 71 does not include any "means language", claim 72 does include that term as well as the text pertaining to "braking".

With regard to the prior art rejections, claims 41, 43-48, 49-53, 66, and 68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wallace et al. Claims 54-61, 63, 67, and 71-73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Walak et al. Claims 60 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by DeVries.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace in view of Patterson et al. Claims 69 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walak in view of Metais et al. and in further view of Kleshinski. Claim 64 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVries in view of Thomas. Claim 65 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace in view of Barbut et al.

With regard to the prior art rejections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the following. The new independent claim 41 is based on former claims 41 and 47. Reference is made to the specification, page 3, column 2. With regard to claim 47 the Examiner stated that it is commonly known in the art that any circuit has a frequency associated with it, including the circuit disclosed by Wallace '061.

Wallace '061 discloses an implant using an electrolytically severable joint. The implant component is at least partially covered with a highly resistive or insulative

covering. The highly resistive or insulative layer or covering appears to enhance the susceptibility of the electrolytic joint to quick erosion and thus detachment of the implant.

Wallace '061 does not disclose that the resonance circuit has a resonance frequency that corresponds to the frequency of an external magnetic field of an MR tomography. Implantation and function of the vessel filter can therefore be observed by imaging MR methods.

Vessel filters according to the state of the art can cause significant MR image artifacts due to electromagnetic characteristics (RF artifact). These artifacts are caused by interferences with the radio frequency (RF) waves of the MR imaging process. Void or complete vanishing of signals occurs in close proximity or inside the filters. A resonant circuit tuned for example to the Larmor frequency of the MR tomography overcomes the RF artifact, thereby improving the visualization of the filter lumen.

Because of the fact that the circuit disclosed by Wallace '061 has certainly no resonance frequency which corresponds to the frequency of an external magnetic field of an MR tomography, the implant disclosed by Wallace et al. is not adapted to overcome RF artifacts in connection with the MR imaging process. The same holds for all further documents the Examiner cited.

One further point to note with regard to the Office Action, the Examiner makes reference in a couple of instances to 35 U.S.C. §102(a). It is questioned whether the Examiner intended for those rejections to be based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Clarification is requested.

A substitute specification, excluding the claims, with the correct line spacing is enclosed as required by the Examiner.

In view of the amending changes made, the corrections and revisions addressing each of the informalities and objections, the subject patent application is believed to be in condition for allowance and favorable action in that respect is requested from the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG 1C

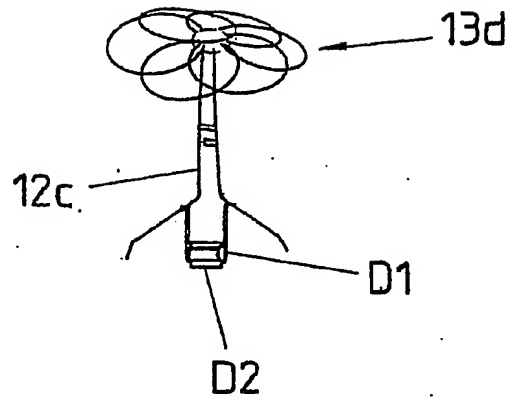


FIG 1D

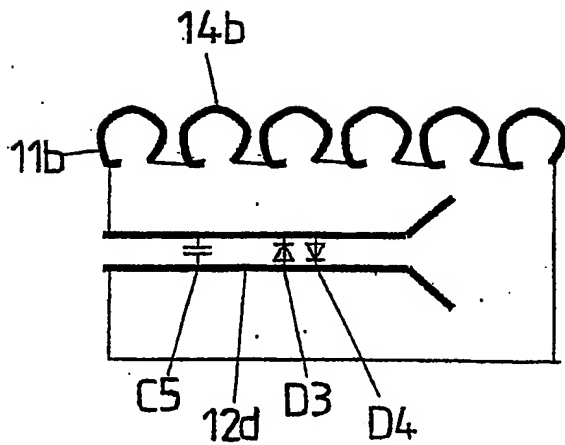


FIG 1E

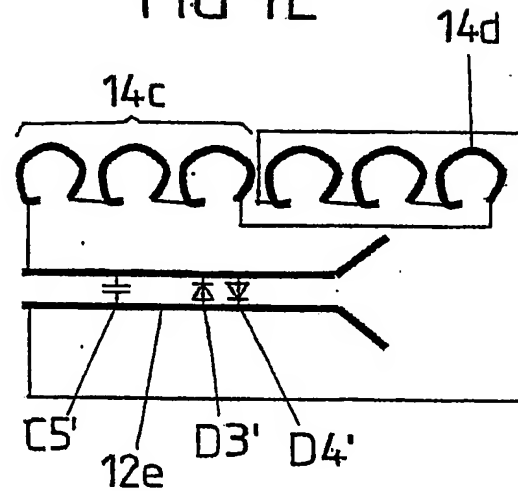


FIG 2A

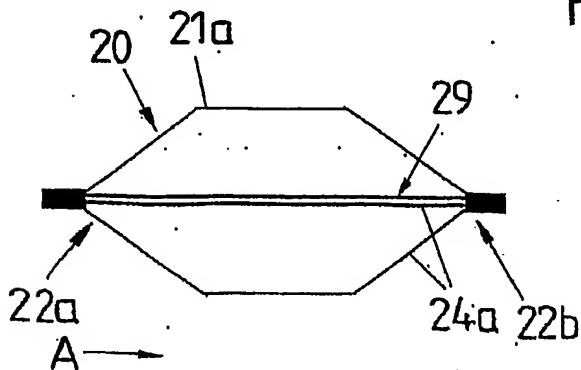


FIG 2B

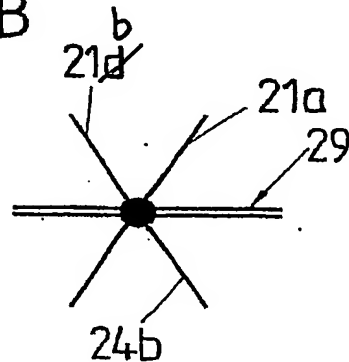




FIG 2C

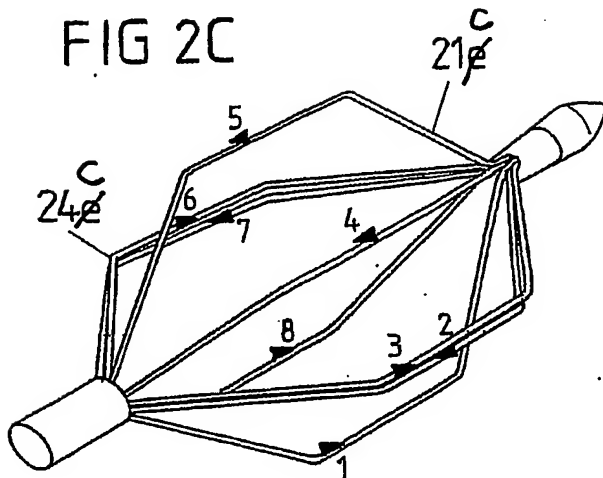


FIG 2D

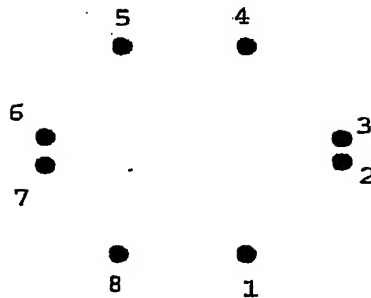


FIG 2E

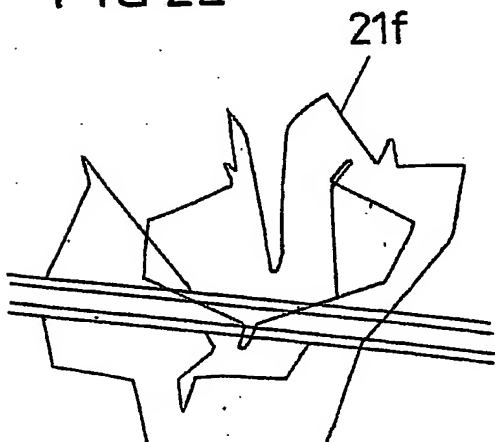


FIG 2F

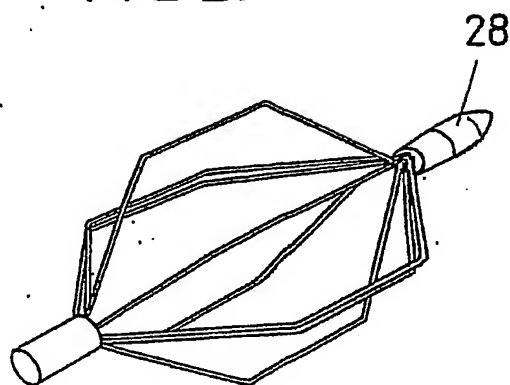


FIG 2G

